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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/755,114	01/08/2001	Geoffrey A Wilkin	PM 276508 2749BRCK	5351

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EXAMINER

CUEVAS, PEDRO J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2834

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/755,114

Applicant(s)

WILKIN, GEOFFREY A

Examiner

Pedro J. Cuevas

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 11-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,877,578 to Mitcham et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,693, 035 to Ostwald.

Mitcham et al. discloses the construction of a rotor disc assembly for use in an electrical machine comprising a rotor disc (14) and at least one circumferential rotor rim (16) mounted on the rotor disc, the rotor rim comprising at least one row of alternate magnets (20) and laminated pole pieces (18) comprising laminations, the laminations in each pole piece being supported by at least one bolt (not shown) which extends through the rotor disc.

However, it fails to disclose a clearance air gap being provided to electrically insulate the laminations from the bolt passing therethrough.

Ostwald teaches the use of an insulating sleeve (24) and an air gap (column 2, lines 32-40) for the purpose of insulating the bolt (14) from the field core.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the insulating sleeve and air gap concept disclosed by Ostwald on the rotor disc assembly disclosed by Mitcham et al. for the purpose of electrically insulating the bolt (14) from the field core.

3. With regards to claim 12 and 13, Mitcham et al. discloses laminations concentrically mounted on the bolt in a radially spaced relationship, and laminations, which are bonded together to form a stack.
4. With regards to claim 14-20, Ostwald discloses elastomeric resilient annular members (22, 23), which are insulated and recessed at either end of the stack, and resilient means, such as nuts and washers, provided on the bolt for compressing the laminated pole pieces.
5. With regards to claims 21-30, Mitcham et al. in view of Ostwald disclose:
 - a fastener extending through the rotor disc, the lamination, the first insulation member, and the second insulating member to attach the pole piece assembly to the rotor disc, as described in column 2, lines 13-28 of the Mitcham et al. disclosure;
 - the laminated pole pieces are annular, the first insulating member is annular, and the second insulating member is annular;
 - the first insulating member includes a first element that is positioned between the lamination and the fastener to radially space the lamination from the fastener;
 - the second insulating member includes a second element that is positioned between the lamination and the fastener to radially space the lamination from the fastener;
 - the lamination includes a recess, and the first element is an annular insulating ring positioned within the recess;
 - the fastener is a bolt, and the second insulating member is positioned between the lamination and a nut attached to the bolt;

the nut secures a spring washer to the bolt and the spring washer is positioned between the nut and the second insulating member;

the laminated pole pieces are annular, the first insulating member is annular, and the second insulating member is annular, the first insulating member includes a first element that is positioned between the lamination and the fastener to radially space the lamination from the fastener, the second insulating member includes a second element that is positioned between the lamination and the fastener to radially space the lamination from the fastener;

the lamination includes a first recess and a second recess, and the first element is an annular insulating ring positioned within the first recess, and the second element is an annular insulating ring positioned within the second recess; and

the second insulating member is positioned between the lamination and a nut attached to the bolt, and the nut secures a spring washer to the bolt and the spring washer is positioned between the nut and the second insulating member

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro J. Cuevas whose telephone number is (703) 308-4904. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30 - 6:00.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor R. Ramírez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-1341 for regular communications and (703) 305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Pedro J. Cuevas
March 11, 2003


JOSEPH WAKS
PRIMARY EXAMINER